

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Scioto Trail State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year 2010
(July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)



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6/1/2009
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OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY

I. STRATEGIC PLAN *(Effective 2008)*

Our Vision: Ohio's state forests will be the best managed forestlands in the country, and will be widely recognized as such.

To fulfill this vision, the Ohio Division of Forestry commits to meeting five objectives. We will:

- Manage forests to ensure the health and sustainability of forest systems
- Produce high-quality forest products that contribute to local communities
- Provide recreational opportunities that require a large forest land base
- Provide unique forestry education sites and promote outreach and long-term research
- Maintain a highly trained and well equipped work force

To fulfill these objectives, the Division of Forestry will develop and implement strategies and plans that allow us to accomplish the following goals by 2011:

- Manage forests to ensure the health and sustainability of forest systems
 - *Implement a proven, verifiable approach to sustainable management*
 - *Manage for site-appropriate, native forest systems and species*
 - *Maintain long-term forest productivity through conservation of soil, water, and forest resources*
 - *Retain or promote stand and landscape level wildlife habitat*
 - *Assess the distribution and impact of non-native invasive species*
- Produce high-quality forest products that contribute to local communities
 - *Base State Forest harvest volumes on the goals and guidelines for each forest system, current stand and forest-wide inventories, and science-based silviculture*
 - *Develop marketing strategies to capture the maximum value of forest products*
- Provide recreational opportunities that are compatible with sustainable forest management
 - *Develop a comprehensive recreation plan for the state forest system*
 - *Build recognition for unique and varied recreation opportunities on state forests*
- Provide unique forestry education sites and promote outreach and long-term research
 - *Support forest research with an emphasis on sustainable forest management (silvicultural, prescribed fire, native systems, etc.)*
 - *Develop opportunities to showcase forest management practices to the general public, private landowners, and forest industry*
- Maintain a highly trained and well equipped work force
 - *Develop a training, continuing education, and/or certification standard for all division staff*
 - *Inventory and evaluate equipment and facilities and develop maintenance and replacement schedules*
 - *Develop equipment and facilities budgets based on current and projected needs*
 - *Ensure all staff have appropriate health and safety training*

II. Summary of Strategic Plan Actions

- Implementation of forest inventory for updated cruising methodology.
- Involvement in managing invasive plant species: co-operation with the Natural Resources Conservation Resources Service through the Environmental Quality Incentive program's hiring of an Invasive Species Forester.
- An enhanced communication program with the use of web based information resources, Project Learning Tree, and the Information and Education Program Administrator.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Scioto Trail State Forest is named after a Native American warrior path known as Scioto Trail that ran from Chillicothe to Portsmouth. During World War I, Scioto Trail State Forest was used as an artillery range for Camp Sherman. Seventy-five millimeter guns and six-inch howitzers were set up at the mouth of Stoney Creek on the Scioto River and fired at targets in the general area of Stewart and Caldwell Lakes. The major land acquisitions for this forest were made between 1922 to 1937 for an average of \$7.70 per acre.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.): Schedules cruises are listed below by compartment. These inventories are based on a 20-year cruise cycle, but may change in the future to accommodate growth and yield models.

The following areas were marked in FY2009, but have not yet been sold:

Forest	Compartment/m.u.	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Scioto Trail	B-3	110033	198	Pre-salvage Thinning	49
Scioto Trail	B-3	231509	523	Regeneration Clear-cut	24

The following is a listing of the inventories that were completed this past year and have resulted in proposed harvests for fiscal year 2011.

Forest	Compartment/m.u.	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Scioto Trail	E1,2 / m.u. a	380,160	684	Shelterwood Harvest	72
Scioto Trail	E1,2 / m.u. b	129,600	233	Shelterwood Harvest	27
Scioto Trail	E1,2 / m.u. c	90,300	162	Presalvage Thinning	43

The following is a listing of the management activities that will be implemented this year and were previously presented in an open house.

Forest	Compartment / Mgt. Unit	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Scioto Trail	C-13 / m.u. a	35,036	34	Presalvage Thinning	19
Scioto Trail	C-13 / m.u. a	123,966	266	Regeneration Harvest	18
Scioto Trail	C-13 / m.u.c	46,410	47	Presalvage Thinning	26
Scioto Trail	C-13 / m.u.c	47,100	53	Group Openings	6

Below is a listing of the compartments that will be inventoried this year for potential management activities in fiscal year 2012.

Forest	Compartment	Acres
Scioto Trail	D-5	126

Merchandising: The Division of Forestry will continue merchandising a limited portion of its scheduled management activities. This effort will consist of hiring a Master Logging company, through competitive bidding, to cut and deliver tree length logs to a centralized location where Division of Forestry personnel will manufacture them into sellable and sorted products. This process maximizes the Division's rate of return for its products. The Division's staff will continue to identify sales for merchandizing throughout the year. The old airfield at Scioto Trail State Forest is the location of the main merchandizing yard.

Minerals: N/A

Invasives: Recently the Division of Forestry received a grant from the U.S. Forest Service to develop an Ohio Woodland Job Corps for the control of invasive plants within the state forests system. From this grant one crew of six people will be employed, temporarily, to work on invasive plant control and timber stand improvement while receiving job-training skills. Division staff will identify areas to control throughout the year.

Boundary: There is approximately 48 miles of state boundary. Approximately one fourth of the boundary is painted each year on a scheduled rotation.

Licenses/Leases: N/A

Insects & Disease: Not only in Scioto Trail State Forest but also throughout the entire area monitoring stations are in place for the Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth, two insects of concern. Both are being managed by the Department of Agriculture. Oak decline is another concern but research is on going to determine its exact cause.

Utilization & Marketing: Forest products will continue to be offered for sale through both the traditional state forest timber sales (stumpage) and merchandising sales. Additionally, firewood permits will be available for sale to the public.

Research: One research project with the U.S. Forest Service is ongoing to examine the cause of white oak mortality. Opportunities to conduct research projects exist for any person or groups. The only requirement being that a special use permit needs to be applied for and approved for the activity.

Summary (2-3 year projects):

V. **Maintenance**

Buildings: Scioto Trail staff is responsible for maintaining nine service buildings, a fire tower, two restrooms, a shelter house at the fire tower, a seed cooler, and a weather station. They are also responsible for maintaining the Southern Region Forest Headquarters located in Chillicothe. Following is a list of the buildings at Scioto Trail State Forest:

- Scioto Trail State Forest Headquarters located on Stoney Creek Road
- Service building located on Stoney Creek Road
- Gas house located at the Forest Headquarters
- Small service building located at the Forest Headquarters
- Warehouse and compound located on Lake Road
- Seed cooler located on Lake Road
- Carpenter shop located on North Ridge Road
- Central shop located on North Ridge Road
- Grease rack/garage building located on North Ridge Road
- Vacated office located by the fire tower
- Service building by the fire tower
- Sign shop located by the carpenter shop
- Fire tower located on North Ridge Road
- Shelter house by the fire tower
- Two outhouses located at the fire tower
- The Southern Region Headquarters located in Chillicothe
- A weather Station located outside of the Scioto Trail State Forest

Anticipated building and facility repairs are as follows: scrape and paint the Forest Headquarters, paint rooms in the Southern Region Headquarters, and replace and paint the steps for the fire tower.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): Scioto Trail State Forest is responsible for the waterline from the main headquarters to the residence and central shop and requires some maintenance each year.

Vehicles/Equipment: Scioto Trail is responsible for the maintenance of 22 vehicles. Vehicles will be repaired and maintained in house unless it is beyond our scope of ability.

The following includes a list of heavy equipment:

930 Cat Road Grader	Massey 135 Tractor
John Deer 444 Wheel Loader	John Deer 450G Dozer
John Deer 750 Dozer	John Deer 450H Dozer
Kubota Tractor w/ Side Mount Mower	John Deer 2240 Tractor
Ford 4600 Tractor	John Deer 6210 Tractor
Ford 335 Tractor	Freightliner Tractor Trailer
New Holland Mowtrim	International Bucket Truck
Ford Backhoe	International Dump Truck (3)
Freightliner Transport (2)	Ford Prentice Loader
International Flatbed Truck	Heavy Trailers (3)
Forklift (2)	

Routine maintenance will be performed on all equipment in accordance with Division and Department policies.

Roads: There are approximately six miles of paved roads and 18 miles of gravel roads. Regular maintenance of these roads includes the following: Gravel roads will be graded and ditched each year; clear all downed trees; roadside mowing; ditching, making sure the headers and 342 culverts are clear and operating correctly, replacing culverts, and litter control.

Forest Road mileages include the following:

Forest Road #1 – 3.6 Miles	Forest Road #5 - 4.3 Miles
Forest Road #2 –5.5	Forest Road # 6 – 6.1
Forest Road #3 –1.5	Forest Road # 7 - .7
Forest Road #4 –3.2	

Signage: The Scioto Trail staff is responsible for all routine maintenance of all the forest signs to insure good legibility and aesthetics. They are also responsible for making, painting, and replacing all wooden signs. Signs are inspected on a regular basis.

Residences: There are two state residences located in Scioto Trail State Forest. One is located by the fire tower and the other is located by the Forest Headquarters. Division of Forestry employees occupy both residences. The renter is responsible for majority of the repairs.

Dams: N/A

Capitals Projects: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Establish a statewide Best Management Practices (BMP) training facility and erect a pole and a light by fuel tanks for security purposes.

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): There are approximately 26 miles of bridle trails that are open to horses, hikers, and mountain bikers. Approximately 4 miles of the Buckeye Trail pass through Scioto Trail State Forest and are maintained by the BTA. All bridle trails will be cleared of debris a minimum of once a year and inspected after each significant weather event.

Campgrounds: N/A

ATV Areas: N/A

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. Scioto Trail State Forest is responsible for these duties in Ross, Jackson and portion of Gallia Counties. Division employees serve as initial attack resources within the forest boundaries and assist VFD's outside the forest boundaries, when requested. Most requests involve the use of heavy equipment.

Prevention: Public education and awareness is key to fire prevention programs. Prevention programs utilizing Smokey Bear will be as follows: Ross County Fair and Bob Evans Days.

Prescribed Fire: There are no planned prescribed fires for the coming year.

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: The Interagency Fire Crew supports the national effort to suppress wildland fire to protect lives, personal property and natural resources. Participation is strictly voluntary, but all employees are encouraged to participate in the program.

Training: Members of the Interagency Fire Crew will attend one interagency refresher class. The Fundamentals of Wildland Fire course will be taught in each county at a minimum once per a year

Fire Department Contacts: The Forest Officer will attend at least one VFD association meeting in the protection area each month. Annually the officer will contact each department and complete the Division's VFD contact information forms.

FireWise: Scioto Trail State Forest will continue to support the Division's FireWise efforts.

FEPP/FFP: The Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program is a program administered by the Division of Forestry that loans equipment to fire departments for their use in fire control. Division staff a minimum of once each year must inspect loaned equipment. The forest staff is also responsible for transporting FEPP equipment throughout the state.

Grants: The Division administers several grant opportunities for volunteer fire companies. Scioto Trail State Forest will promote the opportunities to local VFD's.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus): *Philosophy/Purpose:* State Forests currently have 10 commissioned law enforcement officers and 3 commissioned managers. The purposed of the positions is to enforce the forest rules depicted in the Ohio Revised Code. One very important aspect of the program is resource protection. Forest Officers protect property boundaries from encroachment, recreation resources from undesignated uses, guard against timber theft and watch for watershed degradation. Specific law enforcement polices and procedures are delineated in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual.

Training: Commissioned officers will receive the following training: Weapons qualifications, law enforcement in-service training, remain current with CPR and First Aid, and TASR certification. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

Equipment: Officers will be issued all equipment listed in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual. Each officer will be expected to properly maintain all issued equipment.

Patrol Priorities: Priorities for patrol will be established utilizing the following criteria:

1. Responding to emergencies and help requests with jurisdiction
2. Protect and assist visitors through routine patrol of all facilities and incident investigation
3. Issue warnings and citations for violations
4. Investigate and assign wildfire reports for violations
5. Assist in special projects with other forests and agencies

Special Projects: Identify and request special projects to address specific issues and problems to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for forest users.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): Attend four fire department association meetings; FEPP inspections; court updates; paint 5 miles of boundary; boundary inspection; respond to boundary encroachments by inspecting boundary when/ where encroachments occur; investigate and resolve; investigate fires according to fire manual direction; participate in fire prevention program; update fire department information sheets.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization: Employees are as follows:

Brian Kelly, Forest Manager
Todd Weaver, Law Enforcement Officer
Walt Elliot, Equipment Operator
Rick Harris, Equipment Operator
Scott Trego, Equipment Operator
Steve Dean, Equipment operator
Kenny Boggs, Carpenter
Carol Johnson, Conservation Aide
Anita Strausbaugh, Maintenance Repair Worker
Jeff Reutinger, Maintenance Repair Worker

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Annual CPR and First Aid class will be attended by each employee. Forest Manager will attend the Forest Health meeting.

Safety: Each employee will attend a monthly safety meeting. Required personnel will participate in the annual respirator fit test.

Other Employee Development: Employees will be encouraged to attend programs or trainings that will enhance the employees' job performance

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Scioto State Forest will participate in the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest Open House events; and will present timber revenue checks to the County Commissioners and the local School Board.

Partnerships: Scioto Trail State Park, US Forest Service, Township Trustees, Ohio Forest Fire Lookout Association, and local VFD's.

Volunteers: Buckeye Trail Association and the Ohio Horsemen's Council.

Interpretive Programs: Maintain interpretive signs for prescribed fire and oak mortality.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): N/A

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): The Division is in the process of developing each Unit budget. In the past the Scioto Trail Budget was part of the District Budget.

(NOTE: Budget figures provided by Columbus Fiscal and developed with District Forester and Forest Manager. Attach Copy.)

Revenue: Revenue from Scioto Trail State Forest is generated from timber sales, firewood permits, and special use permit applications. A percentage of this income is returned to the local township, county, and local school district thru the Trees to Textbooks Program.

Summary (2-3 year projected budget):